

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
PROGRAM SUPPORT BUREAU
CLIENT-PEER RELATIONS (CPR) UNIT**

September 8, 2011

TO: Mental Health Communities

FROM: Ron Schraiber, Manager, PSB / CPR Unit *RS*

SUBJECT: 2011 HOPE & RECOVERY ENGLISH CONFERENCE: "Never Give Up!"

We want to take this opportunity to especially encourage clients, staff and family members from your programs to attend the Thursday, October 4, 2011 English language Hope and Recovery Conference. It will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton at 6161 Centinela Avenue, Culver City, 90230. The conference will run from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM with registration beginning at 8:30 AM. The Capacity is for 500 Participants on a first come, first serve basis and free to all Consumers and their family members.

There will be great speakers, entertainment, workshops and exhibit booths. Parking is free to the first 100 cars and \$5.00 fee thereafter.

This year we have two prominent and skillful keynote speakers from the mental health client community. Linford Gayle, the Morning Keynote Speaker, is currently the Consumer and Family Affairs Director for the Northern California County of San Mateo and he has served as the Chairperson of the Oversight Accountability Commission for the Mental Health Services Act. He will share his journey of recovery from living on the streets and shelters with a dual diagnosis of bi-polar disorder and substance abuse to homeowner and noted advocate for people diagnosed with serious mental illnesses.

Our Afternoon Keynote Speaker is Keris Myrick who is currently the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Self-Help and Advocacy Organization, Project Return: Peer Support Network. She is also First Vice-President of NAMI National. Keris will share her recovery journey from major depression, several psychiatric hospitalizations, both voluntary and involuntary, to her current role in executive management, nationally known client advocate and Ph.D. Candidate.

Other speakers from the mental health client community will share their hopeful and inspiring stories of recovery and will provide role models that will show that recovery is, in fact, possible for people who have been diagnosed with even the most severe mental illnesses. Topics will include housing, spirituality and discrimination, among others.

We look forward to seeing people from your programs at this one day event. The English Conference will provide language translation services. We are also arranging scheduled bus transportation for various parts of the county; everyone one will need to pre-register. For further information on transportation and translation capabilities, please contact Tammy Blair at (213) 251-6860 (TBlair@dmh.lacounty.gov) or Leticia Flores at (213) 251-6531 (LFlores@dmh.lacounty.gov).